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Thailand

Grain and Feed

Weekly Rice Price Update

2005

Approved by:

Rodrick McSherry, Agricultural Counselor
U.S. Embassy, Bangkok

Prepared by:

Ponnarong Prasertsri, Agricultural Specialist/Russ Nicely, Agricultural Attache

Report Highlights:

Export prices changed insignificantly but the quotations remained high due to the intervention stocks.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Bangkok [TH1]
[TH]

Indicative Prices (Week Ending May 9):

Thailand: Export (FOB) Prices for various grades of rice (USD/M.T.)									
	Exporter Observations							Period Avg.	
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	CUR.	PRV.
F WR 100 B	440	420	465	445	460	405	420	438	439
WR 100 B	305	304	301	303	305	300	298	302	302
PB 5%	295	297	301	302	301	297	290	298	298
WR 5%	300	299	297	298	299	295	293	297	297
WR 10%	293	291	292	294	296	293	288	292	293
WR 15%	280	286	289	291	286	286	283	286	286
WR 25%	270	274	280	289	270	268	278	276	275
WR 35%	267	270	-	286	266	266	273	271	271
A 1 SUP	226	228	-	226	230	223	220	226	226
A 1 SPEC	224	226	-	225	228	-	218	224	225
Source: Average actual prices received from exporters									

Market Tone

Export prices for most grades of rice changed insignificantly, as the market for Thai rice is still limited by strong price competition in white rice and parboiled rice from relatively cheaper Vietnamese and Indian rice. Thai rice exporters, however, could not lower prices, as domestic prices remained high due to the government intervention program. Local rice traders and millers reportedly continued to hold their speculative stocks because the Government is still uncertain their stock release plans.

The following are the reported rice exports (as is basis):

WEEK ENDING	QUANTITY	4-WK AVG	YEAR TO DATE	YEAR AGO
	(MT)	(MT)	(TMT)	(TMT)
MAR 20	95,458	84,627	1,236	1,265
MAR 27	89,287	86,605	1,325	1,409
APR 3	121,400	98,537	1,446	1,572
APR 10	89,073	98,804	1,536	1,701
APR 17	64,932	91,173	1,600	1,790
APR 24	127,541	100,736	1,728	1,955
MAY 1	118,886	100,108	1,847	2,107
MAY 8	102,422	103,445	1,949	2,108

Note on data: Export figures since March 22, 2002, do not include fragrant rice. The authority to report fragrant rice exports was moved from the Thai Board of Trade to the Ministry of Commerce's Office of Commodity Standards, which does not release official fragrant rice export data. FAS/BKK will report only official export numbers from the Board of Trade for non-fragrant and from the Office of Commodity Standards for fragrant rice when available, but the reader should bear in mind the difference between the data.

Unofficial exports (excluding fragrant rice) for May 2-8, 2005 totaled 102,422 tons, down 16,464 tons from the previous week's total and down 1,023 tons from the four-week moving average of 103,445 tons. Exports during Jan. 1 – May 8, 2005 amounted to 1,949,338 tons, as compared with 2,180,801 tons in the previous year.

According to the Department of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce, total rice exports (including fragrant rice) during Jan. 1 – Apr. 18, 2005, amounted to 2,235,358 tons, down 8.6 percent from 2,444,698 tons in the previous year.

Weekly Rice Sales

Private registered rice export sales for the period of Apr. 18-22, Apr. 25-29, and May 2-6, 2005 are as follows:

Movement (MT)	Apr. 18-22	Apr. 25-29	May 2-6
weekly sales	130,023	108,558	76,528
4 week sum	428,756	462,323	384,157
4 week mov. avg.	107,189	115,581	96,036
Total weekly sales	1,781,591	1,890,149	1,966,677

End of Report.